



Overview of the National Pharmacy Residency Programs

The VA Pharmacy Residency Programs is the largest post-doctorate training program in the country and offers the trainee direct patient care learning. VA trains pharmacy students early in the learning process and often these students apply for VA residencies. These students turned residents often become VA clinical pharmacists and become integral in the advancement of clinical pharmacy practice and integral in health care teams. VA trains over 600 residents annually and offers over 236 programs consisting of post-graduate year 1 residencies (141) and post-graduate year 2 residencies (95). Advanced post-graduate year 2 residencies include such specialty areas as: Pharmacy Administration, Infectious Disease, Oncology, Internal Medicine, Ambulatory Care, Mental Health and other key specialties. Although Ambulatory Care is the most preferred specialty training, VA has become the largest trainer of Mental Health specialty in the country, training over 65 Mental Health residents annually and growing. The VA Pharmacy Residency Program Office has a mission to train for the VA and the profession and although 99% of our residents want to remain employed in VA, many of our residents are recruited in the private sector.

The VA Pharmacy Residency Programs are dedicated to the quality of the learning experience and to ensure this occurs, the National Pharmacy Residency Program Office (PRPO) monitors the quality of the preceptors educating the trainees. Currently, greater than 50% of the VA preceptors are board certified and over 80% of the VA preceptors have scopes of practice in their specific specialties. The most common board certification is Pharmacotherapy, but followed closely by Ambulatory Care and then followed by Psychiatry, Geriatrics, Oncology, Nutrition Support, Nuclear and Pediatrics. Twenty percent of the preceptors have less than 3 years of experience and are in a mentor program locally to develop strong preceptor skills. Greater than 80% of the preceptors have over three years of experiences and have contributed extensively to the profession through publications and presentations. VA residents reflect the role models of their preceptors and have also published extensively in peer review journals and specialty medical journals. Moreover, VA residents contribute to the practice of pharmacy through direct patient care where PGY1 residents average 73% of their time providing direct patient care and PGY2 residents average greater than 81% of their time providing direct patient care.

All of the VA Pharmacy Residency Programs are American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP) accredited and in good standing. PRPO offers national support to local or regional residency programs for the growth of new programs and the expansion of existing programs and offers expert guidance for accreditation purposes, preceptor development and resident education. Besides offering preceptor development programs, PRPO offer educational programming for residents. The residents may take a course on study design and statistics, present nationally on our National Pharmacy Residency Journal Club with VA experts and participate in the monthly resident's conference calls which are designed to help residents with issues throughout their residency year.

PRPO is dedicated to the continuous improvement of VA pharmacy residency programs, the Residency Program Directors and preceptors, the learning experience of the residents and is dedicated to maintaining the quality of VA residency programs as residencies -of-choice nationally. We welcome you to join the VA Pharmacy health care team and see why 96% of our residents want to be VA employed!

Lori Golterman, Pharm.D.

National Director of Pharmacy Residency Programs

Pharmacy Benefits Management Services

Department of Veterans Affairs

810 Vermont Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20420

Lori.Golterman@va.gov